



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Coroner Division

### Quarter 2 Comparison Report

Report time frame: April - June 2019

(comparing to: April - June 2018)

Total cases

**518**

(+1% from 512 in 2018)

Q2 Total include 12 cases pending and 6 cases undetermined

Accident

**222**

(-2%)

Homicide

**12**

(-20%)

Suicide

**72**

(+6%)

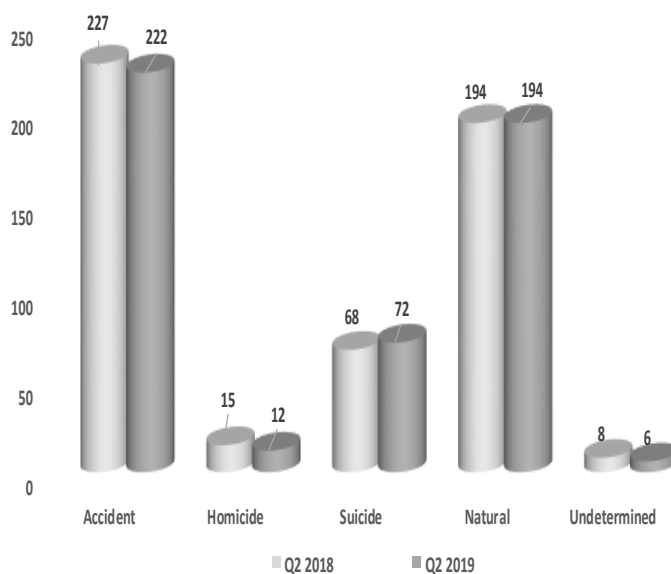
Natural

**194**

(0%)

## MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 2 of 2018 to 2019, accidental deaths have decreased by 2%, homicides were down by 20%, suicides were up by 6%, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner were the same.



### Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths increased in 2019 to 49% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (41%) in 2018. Falls accounted for 22% while traffic related deaths were at 19%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 18% in the second quarter of 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018 (92 to 109)

Methamphetamine appeared in 39% of all overdoses cases which was a 8% increase compared to the second quarter of 2018.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 52% increase. (23 to 35)



Falls decreased 13% in 2019 compared to 2018 (56 to 49) which makes them the second highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 63% of all falls in 2019 but down from 84% in 2018.

Vehicular traffic related deaths decreased by 7% in comparison to 2018 (45 to 42) with Auto vs. Auto remaining the same.



Pedestrian deaths accounted for 29% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 2 of 2019 while in 2018 they were at 39%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw an 11% decrease. (9 to 8)

### Homicides

**20%**

**DECREASE**

In 75% of the cases a firearm was used.

### Suicides

In Quarter 2 of 2019 there was an 6% increase in suicides compared to Quarter 2 of 2018.

During this time frame Gunshot was the leading method at 36% followed by Asphyxia at 35%

The work of the Coroner Division is largely based on Government Code § 27491, which states that all unnatural deaths including homicides, suicides, accidents, and deaths in custody are under the coroner/medical examiner's jurisdiction to investigate. Also falling under our jurisdiction are infectious diseases reaching epidemic proportions, deaths in state or local institutions, and deaths believed to be natural but that occurred suddenly and unexpectedly where the decedent had not seen their health care provider in the last 20 days of life. Note: All deaths that fall under § 27491 are also subject to whether the facts indicate the death occurred under natural circumstances and the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of death occurred under natural circumstance. Therefore, not every death that falls under one of these categories will be investigated by the Medical Examiner's office. See Govt Code § 27491.

\*Due to some cases still under investigation within the quarter, manner of death counts and associated insights may adjust slightly as those cases are closed